

REMARKS

The non-final office action of August 17, 2006 has been reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 27 have been amended, claims 12-16, 18-24, and 26 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and new claims 28-40 have been added. Claims 1, 5-8, 25, and 27-40 thus are now pending in this application. Reconsideration and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that the application contains allowable subject matter. Specifically, claims 26 and 27 were deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form to incorporate the features of base claim 1. Thus, to expedite allowance, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of claim 26, and have converted claim 27 into an independent claim by incorporating all of the subject matter of pre-amended claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants believe that amended claims 1 and 27 are allowable over the art of record, along with their respective dependent claims 5-8, 25, and 28-32.

New independent claims 33 and 37 recite computer readable media for performing the steps recited in claims 1 and 27, respectively. Accordingly, Applicants submit that independent claims 33 and 37 are allowable for similar reasons as claims 1 and 27, respectively, as are claims 34-36 and 38-40 which depend respectively from claims 33 and 37.

CONCLUSION

All rejections having been addressed, Applicants submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully solicit prompt notification of the same.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: October 17, 2006

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